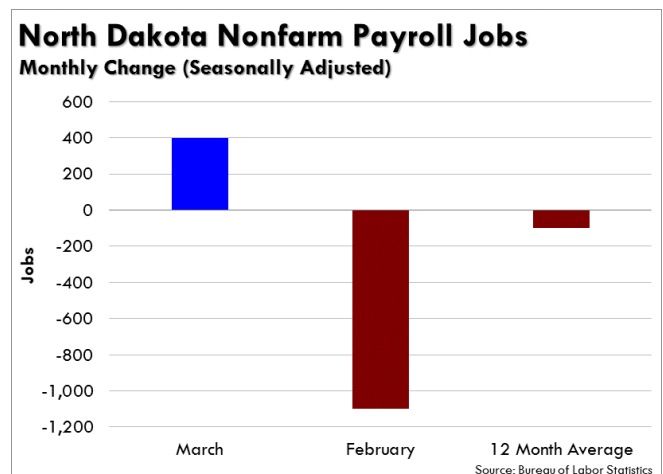
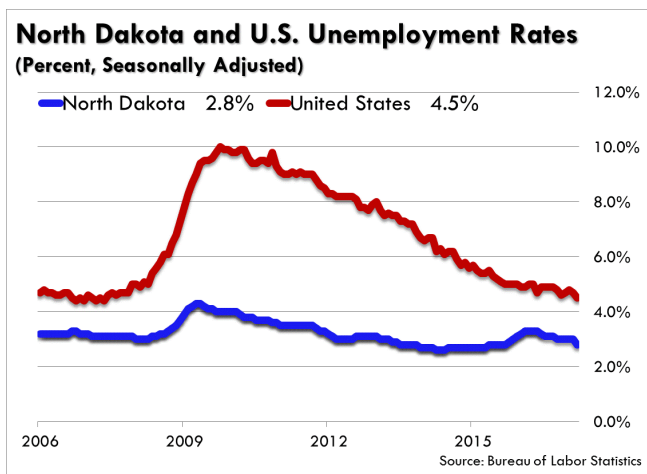


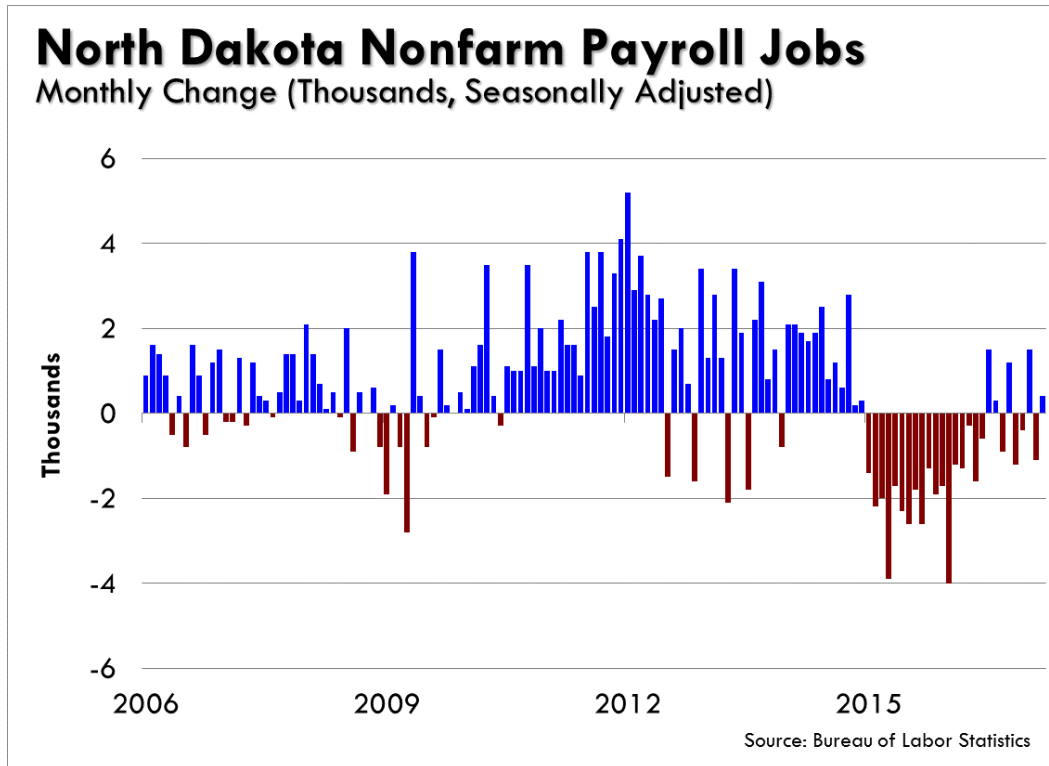


April 23, 2017

Summary

- **North Dakota added 400 jobs and the unemployment rate declined by 0.2 percentage point to 2.8 percent in March** according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data.
- **Over the past twelve months, North Dakota lost 1,200 jobs** and the unemployment rate fell by 0.5 percentage point from 3.3 percent.
- **In March, North Dakota's private sector added 1,100 jobs** and over the past twelve months it declined by 1,400 jobs.
- The number of **unemployed North Dakotans fell by 557 in March**, and over the past year 7,897 North Dakotans found jobs.
- North Dakota's **labor force participation rate increased to 72.3 percent** from 72.1 percent in March. Since last year, the labor force participation rate rose 1.1 percentage point.
- The national unemployment rate **declined by 0.2 percentage point to 4.5 percent in March**. State employment and unemployment data for April is scheduled for release on May 19, 2017. The national employment situation report for April will be released on Friday, May 5, 2017.





North Dakota Payroll Employment

North Dakota added 400 jobs, or 0.09 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during March. In the prior month, North Dakota lost 1,100 jobs. Over the past twelve months, nonfarm payrolls in North Dakota declined by 1,200, or 0.28 percent. North Dakota nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 5 of the past 12 months.

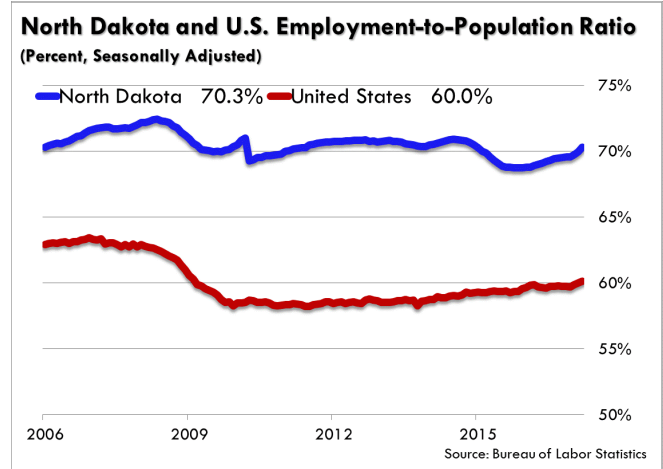
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 98,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the 12-month period ending March 2017, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,185,000 jobs, or 1.52 percent. North Dakota ranks 40th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During March, North Dakota's private-sector added 1,100 jobs, or 0.31 percent. The private-sector in North Dakota lost 1,000 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in North Dakota declined by 1,400, or 0.40 percent. North Dakota private-sector payroll employment has increased in 5 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 89,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,033,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.67 percent. North Dakota ranks 34th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during March were Mining & Logging (+600) and Leisure & Hospitality (+400). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Total Government (-700) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-300).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+1,300) and Construction (+800). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-2,700) and Other Services (-500).



North Dakota Labor Force Statistics

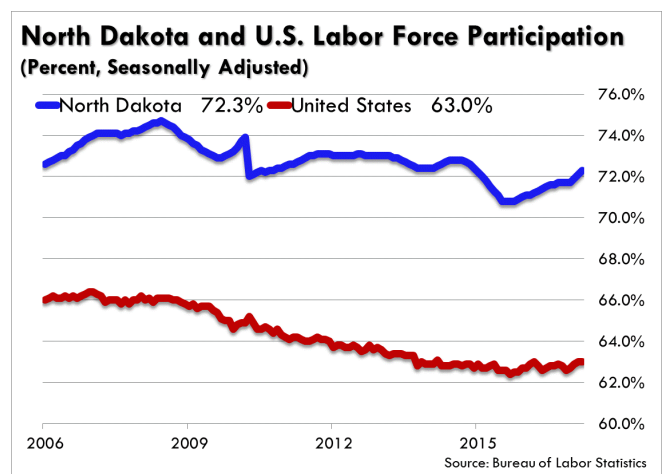
Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rate in North Dakota rose to 72.3 percent in March from 72.1 percent the prior month. At 72.3 percent, North Dakota has the highest labor force participation rate in the nation. The labor force participation rate in North Dakota is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in North Dakota was 74.7 percent in June 2008. This also represents the series high for the labor force participation rate in North Dakota. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 70.8 percent in October 2015. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in February 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 62.0 percent. The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 63.0 percent, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

Employment-to-Population Ratio

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the North Dakota civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 70.3 percent in March from 69.9 percent the prior month. At 70.3 percent, North Dakota has the highest employment-to-population ratio in the nation. The employment-to-population ratio in North Dakota is 1.4 percentage points higher than a year earlier.



The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in North Dakota was 72.4 percent in May 2008. This also represents the series high for the employment-to-population ratio in North Dakota. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 68.7 percent in December 2015. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in April 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio was 60.0 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 60.1 percent in March. That rate was 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.